

UNCLASSIFIED



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Education and Training**

Dr. Mrs. Tejinder Kaur Dhaliwal  
Chairperson  
Punjab School Education Board  
Punjab India

~~Ms Elizabeth Campbell-Dorning  
a/g Branch Manager, International Mobility~~

Dear Dr. Mrs. Tejinder Kaur Dhaliwal

### **Recognition of Class XII from the Punjab School Education Board**

Thank you for your letter dated 12 April 2016 regarding the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's administration of student visa applications involving applicants who have passed Class XII from the Punjab School Education Board.

Australia's qualification recognition system is decentralised and many organisations assess overseas qualifications for different purposes such as for migration, to work or study. Each organisation determines the comparability of foreign qualifications based on their own policies and procedures.

To support these organisations, the Department of Education and Training publishes Country Education Profiles.

Country Education Profiles are an information tool that describes foreign education systems, lists recognised awarding bodies and provides assessment guidelines on the comparability of many foreign qualifications to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The India Country Education Profile does not include assessment guidelines for the comparability of the individual State Education Boards' certificates to the AQF Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (Year 12 award). This means that it is up to each organisation to consider the comparability of such qualifications in line with their own recognition policies.

I understand that in relation to student visa assessment, and in particular the assessment of whether a person is a Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE), academic background is an important consideration. However, a visa application has not and will not be refused on the basis of a qualification from PSEB. Under the GTE requirement, findings are not made on the basis of one factor alone and each application is assessed on its individual merits.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Ms Elizabeth Campbell-Dorning  
26 April 2016

*Opportunity through learning*